

WHAT NEWSPAPERS STILL SAY OF IT.

Legal Powers Were Objected to by Handsome Majority. Question was Thoroughly Understood.

Governor N. B. Broward stands a discredited leader on what he chose to urge as the leading question of the day. The people of Florida have voted a lack of confidence by an overwhelming majority, which in many of the principal countries of the world would mean his voluntary retirement in favor of some one in whom the people have confidence. Of course no one expects the Governor to resign, but we do think he should resolve to be good the balance of his term, and suggest that he try being a real sure enough governor instead of a Moses. Governor Broward and the drainage papers claim that the people of Florida did not understand the drainage amendment and therefore voted against it. If this claim be true it means either one of two things, viz: That the people of Florida are too stupid to learn, or that Governor Broward and his board of partisan followers are incapable of teaching the people. If forced to accept either of these views, the Journal would unhesitatingly adopt the latter, as we still have unbounded confidence in the wisdom of the people. —Manatee River Journal.

If Governor Broward could open the Everglades as easily as he opened the Tampa Fair, he would have smoothed the sailing for the Senate—Apalachicola Times. [But he can't do it, you know.]

Gov. Broward has sent a personal letter of appreciation to each of the "non-subsidized" editors of the State who assisted him in plugging for the drainage amendment which the people defeated at the polls on the 6th. Most of these editors published the letter in full with some unctuous comment about the writer being a great "friend of the people" who "came into his own" and his own said "skiddo." It is the serendipitous comments of these whangdoodles that produces a touch of nausea in the plain, every day horse editors of the State who spotted the wolf as it emerged from the dressing room in the garb of the lambakin. —Palatka News.

A large majority of members of the coming session of the Legislature will be against the Governor's drainage ideas. He is reported to have said, since the overwhelming defeat of his drainage amendment, that he is not through yet, and will ask the Legislature to enact laws that will permit him to continue the work. This large majority was elected to go to Tallahassee to not grant the Governor any further power to carry out his drainage scheme. It seems that the heavy vote against the Governor's drainage scheme has retired Napoleon B. Broward and William Sherman Jennings. It was their pet scheme, but the people repudiated it by a vote of three to two. —Volusia County Record.

The fact that Mr. Napoleon B. Broward has made a most disgusting fool of himself cannot be laid at the door of this paper. We did all in our power to elect him Governor of Florida, and we hoped and prayed that he might prove worthy of our efforts.

That we have been deceived in him was only a misfortune—not our fault. That "just-beginning-to-fight" manifesto was all right with Paul Jones, but with the Governor of Florida it is the idiotic declaration of the most disgusting kind of a demagogue. The fate of that drainage amendment ought to teach the present Governor of this State that he is not nearly as large a proposition as he may have imagined himself. As a matter of fact he was made Governor—not by the grace of God—but by a bottle of whisky. "Candor is a vice as well as a virtue," and we didn't want to say this, but it is the truth all the same, and if the truth hurts, we are sorry, but we simply can't help telling it. —Jacksonville Floridian.

The Governor had the chance of his life at the anti-drainage editors in Tampa Wednesday night. Governor Broward is now dabbling in "futures" with his drainage scheme. A couple of days after the election a Lake Butler man was traveling in Georgia. As the train neared a little station the conductor cried out, "Hoo-hoo-pee!" from one end of the car, while a brakeman screamed, "Hoo-hoo-pee!" at the other end. The Butler man was awakened from a doze and yelled out: "That's right, boys, whoop her up! Butler forever! Hundred and forty to six against drenel! Bless Lake Butler and dam the Everglades!" Although his drainage scheme was hopelessly defeated by the people at the last election, our strenuous Governor still clings to his pet idea with a bull-dog grip and earnestly asserts that he will ram drainage down the throats of the people whether they want it or not. He claims that the question was not understood by the people was the chief cause for the defeat of the amendment. It was understood in this district with a result of 143 against to 6 (by mistake) for drainage. This is an unlucky year for wool pulling. —Lake Butler Star.

Governor Broward says the election was only the first skirmish in the matter of draining the Everglades, and it is intimated that another proposed amendment to the constitution will be submitted to the people in 1908. Let the new resolution be framed so there will be no room for doubt; let it lay out the district to be drained; let it define and limit the powers of the board in clear unmistakable terms; let it be subject to ratification or rejection by the electors who reside within the district marked out, then it will never be said that the people of Florida voted

against it because it was not understood. —Washington Verdict.

The Florida Star suggests that the next Legislature repeal the "Internal Improvement Act," and place the few acres of land which the State now own in the hands of an inexpensive commissioner for sale. This is a good suggestion, and we will add that any money in the hands of the trustees be placed in the hands of the State Treasurer to the credit of the school fund. —Jasper News. [This suggestion came first through an editorial in the True Democrat, which has been extensively copied and credited to the Star. This newspaper registers no kick, however, as the proposition seems to be so favorably accepted.]

The drainage issue is now up to the Legislature. Let that body, a large majority of whose members are already pronounced opponents of the defeated scheme, now begin the work of undoing all of the mischief that the schemers have committed, so far as a cure is possible. Why not repeal the "Internal Improvement Act," and place the remnant of public lands now remaining in the State's possession in the custody of an inexpensive commissioner or commission, under the direct supervision of the Legislature? —Titusville Star.

Broward is defiant and says that notwithstanding the decisive defeat of his drainage hobby at the hands of the people, he will proceed with his drainage scheme. This would-be czar will yet be brought up with a sharp turn that will impress upon him the knowledge that the people of this State still cut a small figure in its affairs. Broward's defiant attitude in the face of the recent landslide reminds us of the story of the bull that once squared himself off in front of an approaching locomotive with the intention of butting it off the track. When engine and bull met there was little more than a grease spot left of mister bull. An old Indian who witnessed the rash act of the bull remarked, "Heap brave bull, heap poor judgment." Broward may be displaying a heap of bravery in thus defying the expressed will of the people, but is not his judgment on about a par with that of the historic bull? —Tavares Herald.

Dangers of Socialism.

There has been some discussion among the people of this country during the past week concerning the vote given to one or two of the Socialist candidates on the State ticket.

Certain alarmists who have argued about "the dangers of socialism" remind one of that scripture that tells of the fellow who "fleeth when no man pursueth."

As a matter of fact, 90 per cent of the Socialist vote in Florida on the 6th of this month was cast by Democrats who were unfamiliar with the names of their own party candidates and who didn't know who they were voting for. Eight per cent was probably cast by Republicans who, having no ticket of their own, embraced the opportunity to make a bluff of opposition to the Democratic candidates.

The remaining two per cent were Socialists.

There are comparatively few Socialists in Florida, and none of them are "dangerous." Those whom we have met have been among the mildest, best natured men we have ever known. If certain reforms are brought about the number will grow less, rather than greater.

In this connection may be noted an incident that occurred during a Cooper Union lecture course some time ago in New York city. It was claimed that the audiences, judging by the applause, were socialistic. So a vote was taken. In one audience of 1200 people there were less than twenty Socialists.

Then this question was put to the audience: "Those who believe time has come for the community to assert a larger control over public enterprises, such as the trusts, railroads and public utilities, please rise."

The entire audience arose. There are no "dangerous classes" in such an audience—a typical, intelligent gathering. "The people will wobble right."

The people are discovering the wrongs in government and they are finding that they themselves are largely to blame for these wrongs. They find that they have neglected their rights. They have conferred special privileges. They have permitted aggressions. It is largely their own fault and that of designing political demagogues who have led them and would still lead. The people are beginning to see this. They want to correct their past mistakes and will be careful not to make more.

It was in the exercise of this caution that the voters of Florida defeated the graft inviting drainage amendment. They saw in it greater opportunities for official plunder than they were willing to entrust to mere self-accused honest men.

Had the vote gone the other way there would have been cause for alarm at the dangers of socialism.

The real socialist—the one to fear—is the one who cries "wolf" when the people are trying to hold or get back their own. And they are vastly more dangerous than the mild-mannered specimens of so-called socialists who voted for the candidates of that party on the 6th inst. —Palatka News.

Has Mr. Broward given up the idea of standing before the people of the State for United States Senator. —Volusia Record. [Had he not just as well do so, as he must see, the people are getting tired of his way of doing things to suit those schemers and tricksters, who know how to squeeze a soft sponge.]

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